



FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR YEAR
1972

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (End of 1972)

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* R.E. Eaton, Esq.

* C.J. Grayston, Esq.

* S.G. Knight, Esq.

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* Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee

*** Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee

** Vice-Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J.W. Finch, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J.M. Yarham, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK

Mrs. E. North

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Mrs. J.A. Morris

Public Health Dept.,
South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the calendar year 1972 prepared, like its predecessors in accordance with government requirements.

The increasing importance of the industrial side of Felixstowe has added to both the work and the responsibility of the Public Health Staff. There can be no doubt that the Town both as an industrial and a holiday centre is growing.

During the year the department has maintained its oversight of the environmental conditions and action has been taken as necessary.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking both Council and Staff for their co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

C.H. Imrie

Medical Officer of Health

August, 1973.



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Statistics

General Statistics

1.	Area of district in acres	4281
2.	Number of inhabited houses	7052
3.	Density of population - persons per acre	4.52
4.	Average number of persons per house	2.75
5.	Rateable Value of District	£1,085,318
6.	Sum represented by penny rate	£10,000

Vital Statistics

Summary

	1971	1972
Population	19120	19390
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.2	13.6
Local Adjusted Live Birth Rate	16.3	16.5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births	3	15
General Death Rate per 1,000 population	14.5	15.5
Local Adjusted General Death Rate	10.2	9.9
Actual number of deaths under one year	6	3

During 1972 the population of Felixstowe increased by 270 to reach the total of 19390 persons. During the same period the number of inhabited houses rose by 219.

The live birth rate maintained a satisfactory level and was higher than the rate for England & Wales.

The death rate was rather lower than the corresponding national rate.

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	130	107	237
Illegitimate	15	12	<u>27</u>
			264
Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	13.6		
Birth Rate adjusted for comparison with other areas	16.5		
Live Birth Rate, England & Wales	14.8		
Illegitimate live births percentage of all births	10		

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	4	4
Illegitimate	-	-	<u>-</u>
			4
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Births	15		
England & Wales	12		

Deaths All Causes

	Male	Female	Total
	153	148	301
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	15.5		
Death Rate Adjusted for comparison with other areas	9.9		
Death Rate, England & Wales.	12.1		

Deaths of Infants

	Male	Female	Total
All deaths under 1 year of age	2	1	3

This number is made up as follows:

Under 1 week	—	1	1
1 Week to 4 Weeks	1	—	1
4 Weeks to 1 Year	1	—	1

Causes of Death Under 1 Year

	Male	Female	Total
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour	1	1	2
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	1	—	1

The actual number of deaths during the year was 301, an increase of 23 over the previous year.

Reference to the table of Causes of Death shows that approximately one in every two was due to disease of the heart and circulation and that malignant disease in its various manifestations was responsible for approximately one in five. The actual number of malignant deaths was 59 compared to 41 in the previous year. There does not seem to be any obvious reason for the increase. It might be mentioned however that malignant disease of the lung and bronchus particularly in females showed the largest increase.

Deaths due to accident, suicide and other violent causes totalled 12 which is an increase over the figures for 1971.

Cause of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	3	1	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	3	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	8	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	9	4	13
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	—	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	7	8	15
Diabetes Mellitus	—	1	1
Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases	1	—	1
Anaemias	—	1	1
Mental Disorders	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	—	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	—	2
Hypertensive Disease	2	1	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	50	36	86
Other Forms of Heart Disease	8	8	16
Cerebrovascular Disease	11	26	37
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	8	13
Influenza	—	2	2
Pneumonia	19	20	39
Bronchitis & Emphysema	3	—	3
Other Disease of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	—	2	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	1	4
Congenital Anomalies	3	1	4
Symptoms of Ill Defined Conditions	1	4	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	7	2	9
Total All Causes	153	148	301

Notifiable Disease Classified by Age

Age	<u>Disease</u>									
	Scarlet Fever		Puerperal Pyrexia		Infectious Hepatitis		Pertussis		Measles	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-9	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	2
10-14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
15-24	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total	-	2	-	1	1	3	-	2	1	4

Tuberculosis Table for 1972

	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Number of cases on Register on 1.1.72	13	7	-	-	20
Primary Notifications	-	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfer	-	-	-	-	-
Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
Removals from Register	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases remaining on Register at end of year	13	7	-	-	20

During 1972 the number of notifications of infectious disease received was 14. These were mainly due to the common childish infections although there were 4 cases of infective jaundice. During the year there was no addition to or removal from the Tuberculosis Register.

I am grateful to the County Medical Officer for the following immunisation and vaccination figures for Felixstowe.

	<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>Boosters</u>
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	181	21
Diphtheria/Tetanus	3	192
Tetanus	3	148
Poliomyelitis Salk	2	-
Poliomyelitis Sabin	183	364
Measles	136	-
Rubella	8	-

In previous reports I have drawn attention to the possibility of those who holiday in certain areas overseas becoming infected with diseases foreign to this country. The fact that there seems to be an increasing number of reports of returning holiday makers importing infections prompts me to reiterate the following advice to travellers.

1. Insure against medical expenses before you depart.
2. Obtain any relevant immunisation in good time.
3. In the event of illness while away or after return go and see your doctor and tell him which area you have visited and of any prevalent infection there.

Sunshine/Rainfall For 1972

	Sunshine <u>Hours</u>	Rainfall <u>Inches</u>	
January	29.50	2.377	
February	50.25	1.225	
March	149.25	1.720	
April	143.50	2.180	
May	188.50	1.130	
June	204.25	2.205	
July	183.50	1.695	
August	206.75	0.425	
September	109.00	1.940	
October	97.50	0.200	
November	75.16	1.935	
December	63.92	1.175	
	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Average Hours Sunshine per Day	4.38	4.22	4.10
Actual Inches Rainfall For Year	21.553	22.642	18.207

Public Health Dept.,
South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during the year.

This is the last such report which will be presented to you. Previous to 1934, the Council had not, apparently, appointed a full time inspector. In his report for the year 1934, Dr. G.J. Conford, the Medical Officer of Health, speaks of the appointment of Mr. R. Greenwood as a full time inspector and says that "his work has been admirably, zealously and tactfully done". I hope that the same can be said of our work during the past year. A perusal of the statistics in the report discloses that some of the problems with which he had to deal are no longer with us. But it is clear that the objective, the general improvement of environmental conditions in the town, was the same.

Mr. Greenwood was succeeded in June 1960 by my predecessor, Mr. J.B. Compton, who left in December, 1969, when I was appointed. I am sure that it may be claimed, with confidence that the efforts of your Public Health Inspectors have, over the years, played a not inconsiderable part in making Felixstowe the healthy town it now is.

It is, therefore, with a feeling of sadness that, for the last time, I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the confidence you have placed in me. Also my personal thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr C.H. Imrie, my assistant Mr. J.M. Yarham, Mrs. E. North, my secretary and Mrs. J.A. Morris, technical assistant. We are, none of us at the time of writing sure how we shall be employed in the future, but I can say, with sincerity that we have all enjoyed working for Felixstowe.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.W. FINCH

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Summary of Inspections

Table 1

Houses inspected	139
Re-inspections as to execution of work	189
Drainage systems surveyed & tested	-
Rent Acts, Enquiries & Investigations	-
Improvement Grants, Surveys & Investigations	494
Qualification Certificates	64
Infectious Disease Control	14
Pest Control	6
Noise Nuisance	7
Other Nuisances & Defects	126
Water Sampling & Supplies	21
Beach Hut Sites	-
Overcrowding Investigations	-
Camping Sites	12
Air Pollution	2
Offensive Trades	-
Food Premises (See Table 9)	872
Meat Inspection	15
Food Inspections (excluding meat)	188
Factory Acts	-
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	690
Miscellaneous	461
Refuse Storage/Removal	<u>7</u>
	<u>3307</u>

Table 2

Action under Statutory Powers

Details of notices served as follows:

Statute	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Complied with	Outstanding
a) Public Health Acts 1936/61	31	9	20	11
b) Housing Acts 1957/64	3	2	-	3
c) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963	88	-	49	39
d) Factories Act 1961	-	-	-	-
e) Food Hygiene Regulations (incl. Stalls & Delivery Vehicles)	-	-	-	-
f) Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
	122	11	69	53

Clean Air Act, 1956

There are five industrial furnaces in the Urban District, three of which and their chimneys were given prior approval under the Act.

The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods)(Vessels) Regulations, 1958

These Regulations make it an offence for a vessel in inland water ways or port and harbour waters to emit smoke for longer than a specific period. No contraventions were observed during the year.

Water Supplies

Main Supplies

Water is supplied in bulk by the Ipswich Corporation Water Undertaking being purified by means of sedimentation, filtration and chlorination.

Fourteen samples of water were taken by the Department, during the year, for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. All were satisfactory.

The natural fluoride content of the water supplied for domestic purposes is 0.1 parts per million. The water is not plumbo solvent.

Main and Other Supplies in the Urban District

Table 3 shows the water supplies, number of houses and population served on 31st December, 1972. That all houses have an adequate supply of wholesome water and only eight are without a piped supply in the dwelling represents a high standard of achievement in this field.

Table 3

<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Served by</u>	<u>Population</u>
7023	Mains Supply	19326
8	" (Standpipe)	21
16	Bores & Wells	43

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

<u>Houses</u>	<u>Provided with</u>
6970	Main Drainage
82	Cesspools/Septic Tanks

Housing

New Dwellings : Figures of houses built in the District since 1945 are given below:

New Dwellings Completed

<u>Year</u>	<u>Private Development</u>	<u>Council Development</u>
1945/50	51	302
1951	9	75
1952	12	64
1953	38	84
1954	64	103
1955	69	85
1956	64	80
1957	49	45
1958	47	41
1959	35	57
1960	68	25
1961	102	—
1962	78	—
1963	76	10
1964	143	18
1965	98	19
1966	128	47
1967	146	49
1968	204	42
1969	132	19
1970	92	40
1971	89	82
1972	39	41
	1833	1328

Table 5 summaries action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts in respect of individual houses found to be seriously defective or unfit for human habitation. The action considered appropriate depends on the individual circumstances of each case.

Existing Dwellings

Defective or Unfit Houses

Table 5

Number of houses at which defects were remedied after informal notice	39
Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notice	14
Number of Demolition Orders made	4
Number of Closing Orders made	1
Number of undertakings accepted not to use dwelling for human habitation	1
Number of unfit houses awaiting statutory action (31.12.72)	22

Rent Acts, 1957/68

Certificates of Disrepair for Rent-controlled Houses

Details of action are:

Table 6

Number of applications for Certificate of Disrepair	Nil
Number of decisions to issue Certificates	
a) In respect of some but not all defects	Nil
b) In respect of all defects	Nil
Number of undertakings given by Landlords under paragraph 6 of the First Schedule	Nil
Number of Certificates issued	Nil

Housing Improvements

During the year 20 applications were received for Standard Grants, 79 for Improvement and 3 for Special Grants. This is nearly twice the number received in 1971. Many more enquiries with regard to possible grant were also received and I have no doubt that the figure would have been higher if it had been possible for the building trade to absorb the work. Applications are dealt with speedily by the Council, once they are received, but many applicants have had to make a long and frustrating search for a builder who could carry out the work. Payment of grant has resulted in the upgrading of many homes, and the provision of new dwellings where grant has been paid towards the cost of conversion of a large building into a number of new flats.

Qualification Certificates

In order to take advantage of the "fair rent" procedure of the Housing Act 1969 a house owner must obtain a Qualification Certificate from the Local Authority. During the year 12 applications were received from owners of houses lacking one or more of the standard amenities, 11 Certificates of Provisional Approval were issued and 3 Qualification Certificates. There were also 24 applications in cases of houses already possessing the standard amenities, and 4 Qualification Certificates were issued. Before the issue of a Certificate properties had to be in good repair and a considerable amount of repair work was carried out in order that houses should qualify.

Table 7

Improvement of Dwellings Inside Improvement Areas

Preliminary notices served proposing improvement to:		Number of dwellings concerned
full standard		-
reduced standard		-
Undertakings given		-
Improvement notices served :	Immediate	-
	Suspended	-
	Final	-
Appeals under section 27		-
Notices withdrawn :	Immediate	-
	Suspended	-
	Final	-

Table 8Improvement of Dwellings Outside Improvement Areas

Preliminary notices served proposing improvement to:	Number of dwellings concerned
full standard	1
reduced standard	-
Undertakings given	-
Improvement notices served	3
Appeals against improvement notices	-
Improvement notices withdrawn	-
Improvement works completed	1

Caravans and Camping

Particulars of licences outstanding at the end of the year are:

Licences to use land as a site for holiday caravans	Maximum No. of vans permitted
5	1074
Licences to use land as a site for tented camping	Maximum No. of tenta permitted
2	26

Inspection and Supervision of Food SuppliesTable 9Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960/70

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of Inspections	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19 Reg.16	
Cafes and Canteens	63	67	63	63
Hotels & Guest Houses	84	1	84	84
Bakehouses	4	6	4	4
Grocers	35	145	32	32
Butchers	18	67	18	18
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	17	9	16	16
Confectioners & Sweetshops	21	31	21	21
Licensed Premises	18	5	18	18
Fish Shops (Fried & Wet)	11	23	11	11
Stalls (inc. Mobile Shops)	46	52	46	46
Dairies	1	-	-	-
Ice Cream Manufacturers	5	12	5	5
Ice Cream Vendors	111	15	111	111
Warehouses	8	419	8	8
	462	872	457	457

Food Complaints

Eight cases of the sale of food which was not of the nature, quality or substance which a purchaser could expect, were investigated. These included:

A decomposing packet of streaky bacon.
Grain weevil in Ground Rice.
Rancid Unsalted Butter.
Mouldy Cornish Pasty.
Edible oil in loaf of Bread.
Mouldy Fresh Cream Mandarin Dessert.
Mouldy Pork Pies.
Sliced bacon kept in an unsatisfactory manner.

Meat Inspection

A 100% inspection of all carcasses was achieved at the local slaughterhouse (See Table 10).

Table 10

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	-	-	6	-	22	-
Number inspected	-	-	6	-	22	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci :						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Public Health Shellfish Regulations, 1934

Whelks are obtainable from Shingle Street and the Orwell Estuary and are cooked before sale.

Twelve samples of frozen prawns were taken from the Cold Store at Felixstowe Dock, during the year. The results were all satisfactory.

Section 88, Felixstowe U.D.C., Act, 1947

The following registrations have been made:

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| a) | Persons registered as food hawkers. | 19 |
| b) | Persons registered for the storage of food intended for sale from cart, barrow or other vehicle. | 16 |

Milk and Dairies

There are thirty-seven registered distributors and one registered dairy in the district, all dealing in designated heat-treated milks.

Samples of Fresh Cream taken for Bacteriological Examination

Table 11

No. of Samples Taken	Type	Results
35	Pasteurised	Satisfactory 27
	Fresh Cream	Unsatisfactory 8

All unsatisfactory samples were followed up and, where necessary, appropriate corrective action taken.

Six (6) samples of sausage were taken during the year. All were satisfactory.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation Regulations) 1963

One sample of imported pasteurised liquid egg was submitted to the alpha-amylase test with satisfactory results.

Voluntary Surrendered Unsound Food

Food suspected of being unsound is either brought by the complainant purchaser to the Public Health Department for examination or made available for inspection at the food premises concerned.

Table 12 records the foodstuffs examined and declared unfit for human consumption outside the local slaughterhouse.

Table 12

<u>Goods Canned or Packed</u>	
<u>Commodity</u>	<u>No. of Cans or Packs</u>
Fruit	1277
Vegetables	633
Cereal	370
Soup	59
Fish	98
Preserves	49
Drink etc.	147
Meat & Meat Products	179
Frozen Food	179

Food Inspection in Warehouses in the Dock Area

Table 13

	<u>Inspected</u>	<u>Condemned</u>
<u>Food</u>	<u>Weight in Tons</u>	
Dried Fruit	1 -	20 packets
Rice	1622	17 Tons
Stewed Steak	24	3385 Tins
Tea	496 $\frac{3}{4}$	-
Tomatoes	235 $\frac{1}{2}$	178 Tins
Nuts	148	-
Cereal	3	-
Fruit Juice	53	47 Tins
Licorice	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	-
Grapefruit	-	31 $\frac{1}{2}$ litre
Cheese	200 lb	-

Byelaws as to Hairdressers & Barbers

There are twenty-six of these premises in Felixstowe, all comply with the basic structural and functional requirements of the local byelaws made under the Public Health Act, 1961.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

This Act places a statutory duty on the occupier of any land or building to notify the Council of an infestation of his premises by rats or mice. The number of notifications or complaints received during the year were.

Private Houses	30;
Business Premises	48
Waste Land or Neglected Plots	5

A summary of work appears in the following Table.

Table 14

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	Non Agriculture	Agriculture
Total number of properties inspected following notification	342	Nil
Number infested by Rats	300	Nil
Mice	42	Nil
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	840	8
Number infested by Rats	369	5
Mice	-	-

Working Conditions in Shops and Offices

In last year's report I mentioned the need for an increase in the number of inspections made under this Act. The appointment of Mrs. J.A. Morris, as part time Technical Assistant in the Department during the year has had the desired effect. I am pleased to be able to report that as a consequence of her efforts, a considerable amount of work, resulting in improved working conditions for office and shop workers, has been affected.

Accidents Notified

Four accidents were notified, all were non-fatal.

Table 15

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered during the year	Total No. of Registered premises at end of year	No. of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	27	63	60
Retail Shops	38	148	148
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	1	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public Canteens etc.	9	46	46

Table 16

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed
Office	952
Retail shops	690
Wholesale departments, warehouses	3
Catering establishments open to the public	444
Canteens	-
Fuel storage depots	<u>4</u>
Total Males	920
Total Females	<u>1173</u>
	<u>2093</u>

Table 18

Administration of Factories Act, 1964

Inspection for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	4	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	-	-	-	-

There are 81 registered factories in the town, mainly engaged in light engineering.

There is one registered outworker in the town.

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There are 81 registered factories in the town, mainly engaged in light engineering.

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TEXT IN
GUTTERS

